

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00635 061016Z
ACTION NEA-11

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CONFIDENTIAL MUSCAT 0635

FROM CHARGE FOR CHAIRMAN, OPEN FORUM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF PERSONAL VIEW ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION

BY THIS TIME YOU PROBABLY HAVE MY REVISED PERSONAL MEMO ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM DATED APRIL 24. SINCE THEN, AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN QUOTED ON THIS SUBJECT. FURTHER UPDATING IS NECESSARY IF THE PAPER IS TO SEEM RELEVANT TO YOUR READERS WHEN IT COMES OUT, ASSUMING EDITORIAL BOARD STILL WANTS TO PRINT IT. I THEREFORE REQUEST ADDITIONAL CHANGES EXPLAINED BELOW. THESE CHANGES USE APRIL 24 REVISION AS BASE OF COMPARISON.

(A) OPENING PARAGRAPH OF PAPER SHOULD BE DELETED ENTIRELY AND FOLLOWING OPENING PARAGRAPH PUT IN ITS PLACE:

QUOTE. BEING A PERIPHERAL OBSERVER OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONTROVERSY, I HESITATE TO INSERT MY TWO BITS INTO THE DISCUSSION. CERTAINLY MORE IS GOING ON THAN IS DISCLOSED IN THE CABLES WE SEE AT MY PRESENT POST. YET I AM DISMAYED AT THE UNENDING DEADLOCK ON THE CRUCIAL PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND AT THE TENDENCY OF OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENTS TO GO OFF IN VAGUELY CONTRADICTORY DIRECTIONS ON THIS ISSUE. OUR STATEMENTS SOMETIMES SEEM DESIGNED TO AVOID A HEAD-ON SCRUTINY OF THE PROBLEM AND SOMETIMES SEEM TO TAKE A POSITION ONLY TO FLIP-FLOP

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AWAY FROM IT. THE COMMENTS BELOW ARE AIMED AT THIS CONFUSION, HOPEFULLY WITH CONSTRUCTIVE EFFECT. UNQUOTE.

(B) NEAR TOP OF PAGE 4 OF APRIL 24 REVISION IS LETTERED PARAGRAPH BEGINNING: "(C) WE FAVOR A PALESTINIAN...". DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH ENTIRELY AND PUT FOLLOWING LETTERED PARAGRAPH IN ITS PLACE:

QUOTE (C) WE FAVOR A PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND". THIS UTTER-
ANCE DATING FROM MARCH 1977 LOOKS LIKE A REAL POSITION,
BUT IT CAN MEAN SEVERAL THINGS. THE TERM CONJURES UP THE
1917 BALFOUR DECLARATION THAT LED INEXORABLY OVER THREE TUR-
BULENT DECADES TO THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF ISRAEL. WE SAY
WE'LL ACCEPT WHATEVER PALESTINIAN "ENTITY" THE PARTIES
AGREE UPON, ALTHOUGH WE PREFER ONE "TIED" TO JORDAN
AND LESS THAN INDEPENDENT. AS I WRITE THIS, PRESIDENT CARTER
HAS JUST REINFORCED THAT PREFERENCE BY BEING QUOTED AS
SAYING HE HAD "NEVER FAVORED AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN
STATE" AND HAS "NO INTENTION OF DEVIATING FROM THAT POSITION".
A SUBSEQUENT OFFICIAL "CLARIFICATION" OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK
EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD SAID NOTHING NEW, BUT THE IMPRESSION
WAS LEFT OF A BLUNTNES PREVIOUSLY ABSENT IN OUR DISLIKE OF
A SOVEREIGN PALESTINE. THAT AT LEAST BEGINS TO BE A RECOG-
NIZABLE POLICY. HOWEVER, THE NATURE OF THE NON-INDEPENDENT
"HOMELAND" ENVISAGED FOR THE PALESTINIANS REMAINS A MYSTERY.
UNQUOTE.

(C) THE FIRST FULL SENTENCE AT TOP OF PAGE 6 OF APRIL 24 RE-
VISION, ENDING A PARAGRAPH, READS: "THE ADMINISTRATION'S
EVASIVE RHETORIC IS...". DELETE THAT SENTENCE. THE PARA-
GRAPH THUS CLOSES WITH THE PRECEDING SENTENCE ENDING:
"...FSKEIM FACE WITH THE HARSH REALITIES."

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(D) THE LST FULL SENTENCE ON PAGE 6, IN THE MIDDLE OF A
PARAGRAPH, READS: "NOW THAT IT'SOUT, HE CANNOT AVOID..."
DELETE THAT SENTENCE AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:
"NOW THAT IT'S OUT, HE CANNOT AVOID CONFRONTATION IT REALIS-
TICALLY." THIS CHANGES ONLY THE FINAL PART OF THE SENTENCE.
NO CHANGE IN PARAGRAPHING.

(E) ON PAGE 11 OF APRIL 24 REVISION, IN MIDDLE OF PAGE, IS
PARAGRAPH BEGINNING: "I SUBMIT THAT...". DELETE THAT
PARAGRAPH AND PUT THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IN ITS PLACE
(ONLY CHANGE BEING ADDITION OF ONE WORD):

QUOTE I SUMBMIT THAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE STRUGGLING FOR
JUST ONE THING: AN INDEPENDENT STATE. IF WE REALLY THINK
THEY WILL BE PACIFIY
BY SOMETHING LESS THAN INDEPENDENCE,
WE ARE WRONG. UNQUOTE.

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